

# THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

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## Original Communications.

Introductory remarks by Dr. WORKMAN, to an article translated from the Italian *Rivista Sperimentale*, on the "*Cortical Functional Compensations of the Cerebrum*;" read before the Toronto Medical Society, on Thursday evening, 22nd March, 1883.

Mr. President and Gentlemen :

I presume you are all aware that the operation of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the purpose, or the pretence, of suppressing cruelty to animals, framed under the auspices of a certain congeries of maudlin male sentimentalists, led on by a battalion of semi-lunatic itinerant female propagandists, has virtually, in our mother country, brought experimental physiology to a dead stand-still, and has transformed the once fertile field of British experimental research, into a sterile waste, over which ignorance and rehabilitated barbarism now exult in all the self-complacency of triumphant stupidity.

This famous, or too truly infamous, Act was, as you may have learned, rushed through its third reading, if not indeed its second, on the last day of a summer session, when a no small minority of the members of both Houses were on tiptoe impatience to rush off next day to the moors of England and the hills of Scotland, to illustrate their tender-heartedness and moral consistency in the wanton slaughter of hares, rabbits, deer, partridges, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, and all other sorts of creatures designated as game, and therefore not included in the catalogue of

protected animals. Is there a sensible, honest man or woman in all the empire, who will deny that this army of licensed slaughterers, or rather this scattered gang of legislative empirics, inflicted more animal suffering, more barbaric torture, more lingering agony (for they wounded far more than they killed outright), on their unoffending and defenceless victims, within even the first day of their wanton butchery, than all the experimenting physiologists of England had done in the previous century? but with this terrific difference, that the object of the latter was the acquirement of a clearer knowledge of animal organization and functions, with the truly rational and humane view of enabling us better to understand these, and more successfully to combat those morbid deviations from the healthy state, without which medicine must have for ever remained in its pristine blind empiricism. But, behold the contrast! See the worse than insane, profitless, heartless butchery of the sporting parliamentarian, or empty skulled aristocrat! What object, one hundredth part so necessary, or so natural, as that which impels the tiger or the shark to seize its prey, has he, that urges or lures him on to imitate their craft and to transcend their ferocity? Does the physiologist ever inflict avoidable pain? Does he ever mutilate for the glory of having maimed? On the contrary, in almost every process of modern physiological experiment, the subjects of it are first brought into a state of complete